



# **ARIZONA CENTENNIAL**

## **Fandango! Arizona Gala**

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer  
Tuesday, February 14, 2012  
Phoenix Convention Center, North Ballroom

**Good evening, everyone!**

**Welcome to Arizona's One Hundred<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!**

**Exactly one hundred years ago on this day -- yes, Valentine's Day -- February 14, 1912 -- President William Howard Taft signed legislation that made Arizona the last contiguous state in the Union.**

**Arizona's struggle for statehood was the longest admission process in the nation's history.**

**Some called us "stubborn."**

**Yet, we persisted.**

**Naysayers said we could "never survive the summers."**

**But, we drilled wells, dug canals, dammed our rivers and made the desert bloom far beyond the wildest dreams of our pioneers.**

**Our mountains were referred to as “useless granite.”**

**Yet, our prospectors and miners found gold, silver and enough copper to supply nations of the world.**

**Our great State of Arizona has contributed to the United States of America in ways too numerous to mention. It’s home to some of America’s greatest and historic citizens.**

**So, when the wonderful news reached Arizonans by telegraph on Admission Day in 1912, schools and businesses shut down, spontaneous cheers broke out and joyous celebrations continued for days.**

**Over the past 100 years, with our boundless opportunities -- and our welcoming, sunny weather -- people continued to flock to Arizona -- transforming it from a remote western territory to a growing, thriving state.**

**Now, we have certainly experienced our fair share of growing pains during our first one hundred years.**

**But, we’re Western strong.**

**We're Arizonans.**

**We have a long and storied history of rolling up our sleeves and meeting each new challenge with a firm resolve to make a better life for our children and generations to come.**

**So, now I'd like to ask my co-chair of the Arizona Centennial Commission, the Honorable Charles E. Jones -- retired Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice -- to join me on stage for a toast to Arizona.**

**We're going to use the words Governor Hunt used one hundred years ago. So, please**

**Stand and welcome re-enactor Don Shields who is reading from Governor Hunt's historic toast from Admission Day 1912:**

***"Arizona is truly a land of romantic dreams that do not spoil the solid reality of achievement. The mountain ranges, the green valleys, the desert soon destined to blossom from the magic touch of water, charm the eye and comfort the soul; while the deep blue overhead brings nearer the connecting link between a favored land and the Supreme Power that guards over it. An empire in extent and resources, containing people of hopeful and cheerful spirit - that is Arizona. May she continue to be a blessing to mankind for all time to come."***

**"Ladies and Gentlemen ... TO ARIZONA!"**